

# The JFK Assassination, Episode 9

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FFF president Jacob Hornberger details the evidence pointing toward the U.S. national-security state's assassination of President John F. Kennedy. View the entire series:

<https://www.fff.org/freedom-in-motion/videos/series/the-national-security-states-assasination-of-jfk/>. Go to the podcast: <http://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/jfkassassination>.

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you [Music] I'm Jacob Hornberger president of the future of Freedom Foundation and this is episode 9 of my series on the JFK assassination an interesting question arises why was Lyndon Johnson so determined to get the autopsy on President Kennedy's body into the hands of the US military you'll recall that that team of Secret Service agents told dr. Earl rose a medical examiner there at Dallas Parkland Hospital that under no circumstances were they going to permit him to conduct an autopsy they said they were operating orders and when rose objected they pull their coats back brandish their guns and implicitly threatened to kill anybody who got in their way started screaming and yelling using profanities and they forced their way out of the hospital with the president's body they proceeded to Dallas Love Field where Johnson's waiting for it patiently as seats being removed from the back of the plane it's loaded onto the plane they proceeded on to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington DC now Johnson always said well I was just trying to be chivalrous to mrs. Kennedy I didn't want to leave her back in this foreign land called Texas even though that's his home state but when he lands at Andrews Air Force Base notice that he does not summon the local medical examiner stat he turns it over the body over to the military now at the time you know hardly anyone considered this abnormal I mean that the Pentagon the CIA and the NSA you know it already come to play such a dominant role in American life that people sort of is considered this is normal but keep in mind that we're supposed to be a civilian country we were tired of war that the president wasn't killed on the field of battle you know like the kings of the Middle Ages they would leave the army out into the field of battle and

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army out into the field of battle and possibly get killed this was just a straight murder case but Johnson is determined that turn it into that into the military now why well in answering that question it's helpful to examine how different military culture is from civilian culture one big difference is secrecy secrecy is everything in the military and to a large extent the whole national security establishment along with this concept calls national security everybody knows in the military or civilian contractor for the military that if you require classified information you're going to keep that secret no matter what you're gonna even take it to the grave with you never reveal it for example if you go and talk to a Vietnam veteran today and say hey did you have access to classified information during the war if he says yes and you say what was it he will say can't talk about classified what he means 5060 years ago what's the big deal can't talk about classified and that's the mindset he will not talk about it because it's inculcated as part of this military culture that you will never ever reveal classified information recall the testimony of Saunders Spencer recall it she was the Navy petty officer that worked in the Navy photography lab there in DC she was the liaison between the navy photography lab and the white house she worked closely with President Kennedy she testified directly and unequivocally before the assassination records Review Board in the 1990s that the the autopsy photographs and the official record are not the ones she developed on the weekend of the assassination she kept that

secret secret for 30 years Plus why because she had been told when she was developing her set of photographs it was classified information and sure enough the entire autopsy on the very evening of the assassination was shrouded in national security and classified information

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security and classified information everybody was told all the participants this is classified you will take it to the grave you will never reveal it John Stringer the photographer for the autopsy he testified before the a rrv they put the fear of God in us and sure enough they they used actually issued written letters of secrecy that's what they were called commanding and ordering everybody that participated you will never reveal what you've witnessed here and sure enough that those secrets were kept for many years and people complied of course with the directive they were threatened with court-martial or criminal prosecution if they'd already left the military now the second feature distinguishing feature is deference to Authority as everybody knows there's a hierarchical order in the military got generals and Colonels and majors and captain's all the way down the line and everybody is expected to obey the the orders of the person above this is inculcated you know the first day of boot camp the first day of officer training school you will always follow the orders of those above you now we saw this phenomenon during the autopsy recall when Colonel Fink was testifying that the Clay Shaw trial in New Orleans he was asked why didn't you dissect the neck and finally they had to pull it out of him he says because I was ordered not to now he claims not to remember the identity of the person that ordered him but clearly it had to be a general he was a colonel had to be a general and somebody in sufficient authority were think said yes sir even maybe a man in a suit like a high CIA official regardless think defers to Authority because that's what he's been taught now another example of this phenomenon Stringer who I mentioned earlier the photographer he was summoned to appear about three years after the autopsy before a committee said his purpose was

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before a committee said his purpose was to sign a written acknowledgment of the of an inventory of the photographs in the official record and when when sterner saw the inventory he knew it was it wasn't correct a lot of the photographs he has taken worth inventory and they said sign it and he says well it's not correct sign it he told this story to the assassination records Review Board and one of the members of their staff members said well why'd you sign it if he knew it was wrong he didn't was false and he said because I was ordered to and and the staff member says yeah but some people say no any military it's juniors response to us yeah but they don't last very much so that is the mindset fertile Authority follow orders now over the years people have lamented the fact that that military had these inexperienced pathologists conducting the autopsy and they were inexperienced to me Humes and Boswell they weren't even forensic pathologists they were just regular pathologists you know like healing with tissues you know there's a tumor cancerous or benign that type of thing forensic pathology is a very clear specialty deals with gunshot wounds the cause of death homicides it's a fourth now faked was a forensic pathologist but you know he was sort of odd man out anyway they call him at the last minute he arrives late after they'd already begun the autopsy and anyway he hadn't done a forensics path autopsy for more than two years and so people have lamented this and but you see there's another way to look at this that when you've got inexperienced pathologists that's that's a dream come true for anybody that wants to exercise authority because if you're in command of the situation's you will you will be more likely to get deferred to if the person doesn't know it needs doing so when you say don't do this or don't do that and then inexperienced pathologists is not

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then inexperienced pathologists is not going to know any better he's not gonna know what his job is supposed to be so he's more likely to say yes sir I'm so blue so that's that's the culture of the military now if you take Dr. Earl Rose who by the way was one of the most renowned medical examiners in the country let's say he's performing the autopsy there at Parkland Hospital and the president Hospital comes down and says don't dissect that Nick I guarantee you Rose would have said butt out and if the President had said I'm the

president of this university and you're gonna do as I say Rose would have said this is my domain this is my autopsy butt out and get out because it's an entirely different culture in civilian life now so those two factors may very well have played an important role in Johnson's decision to turn the autopsy into the hands in the military but of course the larger question still looms why was it so important to Johnson why was he so determined to get the autopsy of President Kennedy's body into the hands of the US military [Music]

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